

Message Text

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44

ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 JUSE-00 TRSE-00 L-03 /048 W

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O P 071300Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8619

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

INFO DEA HQS WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 15257

ANKARA FOR DEA; DEPT FOR AMBASSADOR VANCE; DEA HQS FOR CASEY/EN

E.O. 11652: DGS

TAGS: SNAR, EG, TU

SUBJ: UD-76-0010 DERVIS DELIBALTA (DEA 1-E3)

REF: CAIRO 15253 AND PRVIOUS

1. POLCOUNS MET WITH TURKISH CHARGE KARASAPAN NOV 7 TO REVIEW TURKISH EMBASSY'S EFFORTS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON SUBJECT CASE AND TO ENCOURAGE INCREASED COOPERATION WITH GOE IN FURTHERING INVESTIGATION. CHARGE REVIEWED TURKISH EFFORTS BEGINNING WITH JUNE 21 NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW ACCOUNT SEIZURE GIVEN BY CUSTOMS GENERAL TRABULSI. CHARGE SAID EMBASSY HAD IMMEDIATELY ASKED INFORMALLY FOR MEETING WITH TRABULSI AND THEN DID SO FORMALLY IN NOTE TO MFA ON JULY 14. MFA HAD NOT REJECTED REQUEST, BUT NEITHER HAD IT GIVEN POSITIVE RESPONSE. AFTER REPEATED QUERIES (BUT NEVER AT HIGHER LEVEL THAN DIRECTOR MFA CONSULAR DEPARTMENT) APPOINTMENT WAS FINALLY GRANTED ON SEPTEMBER 19. KARASAPAN, IN CAPACITY AS COUNSELOR NOT CHARGE, RECEIVED FROM GENERAL TRABULSI INFORMATION ORALLY ABOUT ARREST AND SEIZURE AND SUBMITTED IT TO ANKARA. AT THAT MEETING HE ALSO ASKED FOR A REPORT IN WRITING AND FOR ACCESS TO DELIBALTA. ON SEPTEMBER 20, TURKISH EMBASSY MADE SAME REQUEST IN NOTE TO MFA. NO RESPONSE HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM MFA DESPITE WEEKLY QUERIES, AGAIN NOT AT LEVEL HIGHER THAN CONSULAR DEPARTMENT. IN ADDITION, KARASAPAN
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SAID HIS CONSUL, WHO MAKES WEEKLY TRIP TO ALEXANDRIA, HAD EACH

WEEK REQUESTED PERMISSION TO SEE DELIBALTA. IT HAD NEVER BEEN GRANTED. HOWEVER, HESTERDAY CONSUL HAD AGAIN MADE REQUEST AND AUTHORITY GRANTED FOR HIM TO SEE DELIBALTA NOVEMBER 8 OR 9. HE DOES NOT EXPECT TO LEARN MUCH SINCE DELIBALTA A "SIMPLE SAILOR".

2. KARASPAN SAID THAT EMBASSY HAD BEEN MOTIVATED IN THIS CASE PRIMARILY BY DESIRE TO OBTAIN CONSULAR ACCESS TO TURKISH PRISONER. THEREFORE, IT HAD NOT CONTACTED ANA DIRECTLY. TO DO SO, HE SAID WOULD SUGGEST OPIUM COMING FROM TURKEY. POLCOUNS REITERATED THAT ANA DIRECTOR FARAG HAD AS RESULT OUR REPRESENTATION TO HIM, TOLD US HE WOULD ARRANGE ACCESS TO PRISONER AND PROVIDE COPY OF THE REPORT TO INTERPOL TO TURKISH EMBASSY IF REQUEST RECEIVED FROM EMBASSY. CHARGE RESPONDED THAT HE COULD NOT DO SO. HIS DEPUTY, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT, CLAIMED IT IS A POLICE MATTER AND SHOULD BE HANDLED BETWEEN THE "COMPETENT POLICE AUTHORITIES" RATHER THAN THE EMBASSY. IN RESPONSE SUGGESTION HE RECOMMENDED TO ANKARA THAT TURKISH EMBASSY BE ALLOWED CONTACT ANA, CHARGE SAID HE COULD NOT EVEN RECOMMEND SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION.

3. COMMENT: IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT TURKISH EMBASSY HAS NOT PRESSED HARD TO OBTAIN INTERVIEW WITH DELIBATA, CERTAINLY NOT AT HIGH LEVEL. CHARGE ADMITTED THAT HE WAS DONE VIRTUALLY NOTHING TO OBTAIN WRITTEN REPORT OF SEIZURE BEYOND REQUEST OF SEPTEMBER 20. CHARGE SAID CONSUL WOULD REQUEST REPORT ON CHARGES AGAINST DELIBALTA IN MEETING THIS WEEK. UNLESS TURKISH EMBASSY IS INSTRUCTED ACT MORE VIGOROUSLY IN PURSUING THIS MATTER, INCLUDING DIRECT CONTACT WITH ANA, ISSUE WILL REMAIN IN PRESENT STATE OF DRIFT. RECOGNIZE TURKISH SENSITIVITIES, BUT IT WOULD SEEM TO BE IN THEIR INTEREST TO LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED, IN ORDER TO OBTAIN FULL STORY, PARTICULARLY SINCE IT APPEARS OPIUM IS NOT OF TURKISH ORIGIN.
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